Remarks

The Amendments

The amendments introduce no new matter and respond to points raised in the Advisory Action. The amendments were not presented earlier because Applicants believed their previous response put the claims in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 5, 2004

Lisa M. Hemmendinger Registration No. 42,653

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. 1001 G Street, N.W., Eleventh Floor Washington, D.C. 20001-4597 (202) 824-3000